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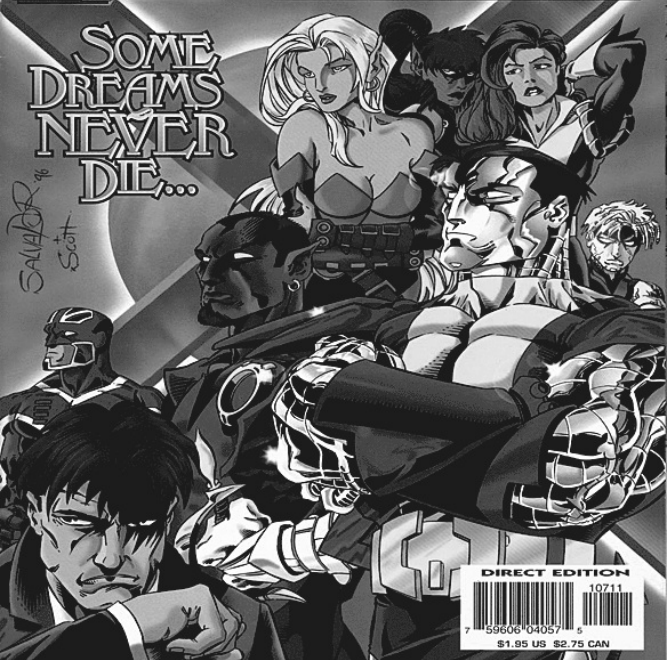
LANZAROTE
Caliente.COM



EXCALIBUR

SOME
DREAMS
NEVER
DIE...

SALVADOR⁹⁶
Scott



DIRECT EDITION



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**STAN LEE
PRESENTS:**

**A TURNING POINT IN
THE LIVES OF THE
EUROPEAN
X-MEN!**

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MATT IDOLSON editor
SALVADOR LARROCA penciler
KEVIN TINSLEY colors
SCOTT KOBLISHinker
GCV separations
BOB HARRAS editor in chief

FOCUS

**FIFTY KILOMETERS
OUTSIDE OF
LONDON, ENGLAND.**

**EVER SINCE THE ADVENT OF
WHAT THE BRITISH PRESS
SO IRONICALLY DUBBED THE
"SUPER HERO INVASION"...**

**"... SIGHTS SUCH AS THIS
SUPERSONIC HOVERCAR
HAVE BECOME COMMON-
PLACE TO THE CITIZENS
OF THE QUEEN'S REalm.
SO COMMON, AS A
MATTER OF FACT..."**

**"... THAT EVEN A BACK-
WOODSMAN LIKE NIGEL
MCWHIRTER MIGHT
RECOGNIZE THE MARKINGS
OF A CRAFT BELONGING TO
THE BRITISH ISLES' PREMIER
SUPER GROUP..."**

EXCALIBUR

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THOUGH ACCUSTOMED TO THEIR NUMEROUS APPEARANCES ON THE "TELLY" AND IN THE TABLOIDS, PUBLIC OPINION ABOUT THIS PARTICULAR GROUP OF HEROES...

...COMPRISED PREDOMINANTLY OF MUTANTS -- PEOPLE BORN WITH UNCANNY ABILITIES THAT SET THEM APART FROM THEIR FELLOW HUMANS...

...HAS CHANGED SIGNIFICANTLY SINCE THE LOSS OF THE AVENGERS AND THE FANTASTIC FOUR DURING THE ONSLAUGHT DEBACLE IN THE UNITED STATES.

-- A SITUATION FOR WHICH THE MEDIA HAS BEEN NONE TOO FORGIVING OF EXCALIBUR --

COMPOUNDED WITH THE TRAGIC LOSS OF A HUGE PORTION OF LONDON'S POPULACE A FEW WEEKS AGO --&

-- ONE MIGHT SAY THAT OUR HEROES' STOCK HAS DROPPED SIGNIFICANTLY IN THE EYES OF THE PEOPLE.

SWEET MOTHER O' --!

BLEEDIN' SUPER HEROES.

SHOULDA TAKEN COUSIN ANGUS' ADVICE AN' MOVED MESELF BACK TAE SCOTLAND --

-- AWAY FROM ALL THESE SILLY COSTUMED SODS!

'SPECIALLY THOSE NO-GOOD MUTANTS!

SEE US RIGHT YRS
VOL. 1-4 FOR THE SCOOP
ON ALL THE
MONSTER MATT

YOUR NEW
INVENTION
HANDLES LIKE
A DREAM,
BRIAN!

THANKS, MEG --
BUT IT'S JUST A
PROTOTYPE!

IT'S NOT
READY TO
ENDURE THIS KIND
OF PUNISHMENT
JUST YET!

MUST
YOU BE SO
BRUTAL TO MY
BABY?

OH, IF ANYTHING
HAPPENS TO
THE CAR --

-- I'M
SURE YOU'LL
HOME IN ON THE
PROBLEM AND
FIX IT IN A
JIF, LUV.

YOU'RE
ALWAYS SUCH
A WHIZ WITH
YOUR TECHNO-
TOYS!

BESIDES --
I'M JUST SOOO
EXCITED!

TODAY
IS GOING TO
BE THE HAPPIEST
DAY OF OUR
LIVES!

AND AS THIS HAPPY,
YOUNG COUPLE --
BETTER KNOWN AS
CAPTAIN BRITAIN AND
MEGGAN -- SPEEDS
TOWARD LONDON ON A
VERY SPECIAL ERRAND...

...WE SHIFT OUR FOCUS
TO A TINY LANDMASS
JUST OFF THE COAST
OF SCOTLAND.

MUIR
ISLAND.

NOT ONLY IS IT THE
WORLD'S FOREMOST
FACILITY FOR
GENETIC RESEARCH
THIS SIDE OF THE
XAVIER INSTITUTE...

... BUT IT IS ALSO HOME
TO THE MEN AND WOMEN
OF EXCALIBUR...

... AND IT IS UNDER
SOME SERIOUS
RECONSTRUCTION!

GREETINGS,
KATYA -- WELCOME
TO COMRADE KURT'S
LATEST BRIGHT
IDEA.

JEEZ --
THAT THING
MUST WEIGH
TONS,
PIOTR!

THIRTY-
FIVE TO BE
PRECISE --

-- BUT WHO ELSE
ON THE ISLAND IS
STRONG ENOUGH TO
HOLD IT STEADY WHILE
NIGHTCRAWLER AND
WOLFGAME MAKE
THE NECESSARY
CALIBRATIONS?

"CALIBRATIONS?"
FOR WHAT?

FOR OUR
VERY OWN
CEREBRO UNIT,
KATZCHEN.

AS
TEAM LEADER,
I DECIDED NOW'S
THE TIME FOR
EXCALIBUR TO TAKE A
MORE ACTIVE ROLE
IN THE FUTURE
OF MUTANT-
KIND.

THOUGH
IT'LL BE A HUGE
COUP IF I EVER GET
THIS VERDANT
THING ON-
LINE...



KEEP AT IT,
KURT --

-- YE'LL
LUCK THIS
TECHNO-BEASTIE
YET!

I WISH I
COULD SHARE
YOUR OPTIMISM,
RAHNE --

-- BUT
WE'VE BEEN
AT THIS SINCE
DAWN, AND
STILL NO
LUCK!

CLEARLY,
OUR LITTLE GERMAN
TOVARISHCH IS NO
FORGE!

KEEP UP THE
JOKES, MEIN
FREUND --

-- AND
YOU'LL BE
HOLDING THIS
DEVICE TILL
THE COMING
DAWN!



THIS
IS ALL VERY
INDUSTRIOUS
OF YOU, HERR
WAGNER --

-- BUT
HOW DO YOU
EXPECT IT TO
FUNCTION? YOU NEED A
PSI --

-- AND
NONE OF US ARE
TELEPATHS...

-- AND
C'MERE AND
GIVE YER MAN
A PECK --
HEY!

YER NOT
BLEEDIN'
KIDDIN'!

A BLOKE NEEDS
A BLOODY MIND-
READER T'KEEP
UP WITH YOU
X-MEN!

WHERE'VE
YA BEEN,
PRYDE?

YA WERE
SUPPOSED T'MEET
ME AT THE PUB HALF
AN HOUR AGO, MY
LITTLE YANKEE
STRUMPET!

DO ME A
FAVOR, PETER
WISDOM --



-- NEVER
LET ANYONE
TELL YOU HOW TO
SWEET-TALK A
LADY.

YAH
YAH YAH
YAH.

WHY
DON'TCHA
QUIT FLAPPIN' THOSE
LUSCIOUS LITTLE
LIPS --



WALK MUCH,
"CASSANOVA"?

GOOD
THING I ALREADY
WON YER HEART,
PRYDE --

-- 'CUZ I SURE
AS GOD WOULDN'T
WASTE MY TIME TRYIN'
T'SWEEP A GIRL WHO CAN
BECOME INTANGIBLE
OFF HER FEET!

NOW,
WHAT'S ALL THIS
TALK ABOUT A
"CEREBRO"?

TRIP



CEREBRO
IS, HERR
WISDOM --

-- IN
NOT SO MANY
WORDS --

-- A
LIFESAVER.



IT'S A
CYBERNETIC DEVICE
THAT CAN RECOGNIZE A
MUTANT'S GENETIC
SIGNATURE --

-- AND HELP
US PINPOINT THEIR
LOCATION AS FAR AS
HALF-A-WORLD
AWAY!



RIGHT,
COLOSSUS?

DA.
IT IS A
TECHNOLOGICAL
"BLOODHOUND."

I
THOUGHT
THAT WAS
YOUR COLONIAL
COUSIN'S
GIG.

SINCE
WHEN DID YOU
CHAPS DECIDE TO
PLAY "MUTANT
MESSIAH" --

-- AND
LEAD ALL THE
WAYWARD MUTANTS
TO THE "PROMISED
LAND"?





THAT WAS
PROFESSOR
XAVIER'S
DREAM --

-- WHEN
HE ASKED US
TO LEAVE OUR
LIVES BEHIND
AND BECOME
HIS X-MEN.

HE WANTED
TO TEACH US
THAT BEING BORN
A MUTANT NEED
NOT BE A
CURSE.

«ILLYANA!
LITTLE SNOWFLAKE --
LOOK OUT! THE
TRACTOR!»

THAT HAVING POWERS
WHICH SET YOU APART
FROM OTHERS CAN GIVE
YOU AN **ADVANTAGE**
THAT PERHAPS YOUR
NEIGHBOR LACKS --

«-- AND A CHANCE TO
MAKE A **DIFFERENCE**...



SMASH
NYET!

«... FOR ONE'S
FRIENDS... FOR
ONE'S FAMILY...

«... FOR THE
WORLD.»



"I REMEMBER WHEN MY MUTANT POWERS STARTED KICKIN' IN, COLOSSUS. I KEPT GETTING THESE REALLY NASTY HEADACHES.

"THIS ONE'S... THE WORST... EVER.

PLEASE GOD -- I'M ONLY THIRTEEN AND A HALF. I CAN'T BE DYING!

"THE PAIN GOT SO SEVERE, I WOULD PASS OUT UPSTAIRS IN MY BEDROOM --

"-- AND WAKE UP -- LIKE, HALF AN HOUR LATER -- DOWNSTAIRS!

HUH? I'M IN THE LIVING ROOM!

"I WAS SO TOTALLY SCARED! I HAD NO IDEA WHAT WAS WRONG WITH ME.



"AND THEN, PROFESSOR XAVIER CAME AND TOLD ME I WAS A *MUTANT*."

"TALK ABOUT A BUZZKILL, HUH?

"WELL, AT FIRST IT WAS --



"-- BUT WHILE HE TAUGHT ME HOW TO CONTROL MY PHASING POWERS --

"-- I REALIZED THAT BEING 'GIFTED'

"-- BEING 'DIFFERENT' --"

-- WAS TOTALLY RAD, AND NOTHING TO BE SCARED OF!



IT WAS
NAE SO EASY
F'R ME TAE GET
USED TAE THE
FACT I WAS A
MUTANT.

IT TOOK ME
LOTS O' PRACTICE
AN' DISCIPLINE TAE
LEARN HOW TO CONTROL
MUH ABILITY TO MORPH
FROM A HUMAN
GIRL --

-- TAE A
LYCANTHROPE --

-- TAE A
BLOODTHIRSTY
WOLF!

I WAS BUT A
WEE BAIEN WHEN LADY
MORR MAC TAGGERT
TOOK CARE O' MUH
WHILE MUH VERY
OWN DA --



*-- THE DISHONORABLE
REVEREND CRAIG --



*-- HAD CONVINCED
THE ENTIRE TOWN
(MURSELS INCLUDED)--
THAT I WAS THE SPAWN
O' SATAN HIMSELF!

RAHNE
SINCLAIR IS
POSSESSED! THE
DEVIL SPEAKS
THROUGH
HER!

*IT WASN'T UNTIL I
CAME TO AMERICA --
TO THE SCHOOL F'R
GIFTED YOUNGSTERS
IN SALEM CENTER --



*-- TAE STUDY WIT'
THE PROFESSOR
XAVIER AND MUH
FRIENDS IN THE
NEW MUTANTS --

*-- THAT I
REALIZED HOW
MUCH O' A LIFE
THAT WAS... *

*LIKE RAHNE, I, TOO,
SUFFERED SOCIETY'S
BLIND BIGOTRY.

*YET UNLIKE HER, I
WAS UNABLE TO HIDE
MY APPEARANCE IN A
'TRANSITIONAL' FORM.

*ALL EYES THAT BEHELD ME
SAW ONLY ONE THING: A
DEMON TO BE DESTROYED
AT ALL COSTS.

BAMF

YOU WILL
BURN IN THE
FIRES OF HELL,
DEVILSPAWN!

SATAN SHALL
CLAIM YOUR SOUL
FOREVERMORE!

A
POX AND
ETERNAL
DAMNATION
ON YOU!

BRING
THE STAKE!
KILL THE
BEAST!!!

NOW,
MONSTER--
WE WILL BE
RID OF
YOU!!!

*AND IN THE VERY MOMENT
WHEN I THOUGHT THEY
WOULD MAKE GOOD
ON THEIR THREATS...

STOP!!!

*HERR PROFESSOR DEFIED HIS OWN
CONSCIENCE AND BROKE HIS MOST
SACRED PERSONAL OATH BY USING
HIS TELEPATHIC POWERS TO ASSUME
CONTROL OF THE HOWLING MOB.*

IN
THAT MOMENT,
CHARLES XAVIER
GAVE ME THE MOST
PRECIOUS GIFT OF
ALL...

...A
CHANCE
AT LIFE.

FOR
THIS, I SHALL
ETERNALLY
REMAIN IN HIS
DEBT.



WHEN
XAVIER WAS TAKEN INTO
CUSTODY BY THE U.S.
GOVERNMENT --

-- I
DECIDED TO
CONTINUE THE SEARCH
FOR YOUNG MUTANTS
REQUIRING TRAINING
IN THE USE OF THEIR
POWERS.

MUTANTS
LIKE OURSELVES,
WHO ONCE NEEDED
GUIDANCE.

OR,
AT THE VERY
LEAST --

NOW, LET
ME GET THIS
STRAIGHT...
YOU
FOUR'RE ABOUT
TASK ME T'JOIN YA
ON THIS COCKAMIE
CRUSADE, TOO
-- AIN'T CHAP

JUST
'CUZ OL'
"CLUEBALL CHARLIE"
ONCE PULLED YER
FATS OUT O'
THE FIRE?

JA,
WAS IST
YOUR FAMOUS
JUSTIFICATION
FOR HEROIC
ACTION --?

Ahhh, BUT I
PARAPHRASE --

-- A
HELPING
HAND.

RIGHT.



-- "IT
NEEDS
DOING."

CODSWALLOP.

LONDON'S
PICADILLY
CIRCUS...

... WHERE WE RETURN
OUR ATTENTION TO
EXCALIBUR'S FAIR-HAired
COUPLE AS THEY TREED
CLOSER -- EVER CLOSER...

... TO WHAT MAY BE
THE MOST IMPORTANT
HOUR OF THEIR LIVES.

LOOK,
CAM -- IT'S
CAPTAIN BRITAIN
AND MEGGAN OF
EXCALIBUR!

UNFORTUNATELY FOR
THEM, THE MOOD IN
THIS CITY--UNDER-
RECONSTRUCTION IS
NOT AS JOVIAL
AS THEIR OWN.

TRUTH BE TOLD,
THINGS JUST
HAVEN'T BEEN
THE SAME IN OL'
LONDON TOWNE --

-- ESPECIALLY FOR
BRIAN BRADDOCK...

ought to
be locked up
for what they
did, those
two!

FLIPPIN'
AY I DON'T GIVE
A FIG WHAT THE
BLEEDIN' QUEEN
SAYS --

-- YA
GOT SOME
NERVE SHOWN'
YER FACES IN
PUBLIC!

KILLED
ALL THE REAL
HEROES, HE
DID!

WHY, YOU
YOUNG,
TATTOOED --!

'SPECIALLY
AFTER WOT WENT
DOWN IN THE BLEEDIN'
UNITED STATES WIT'
THAT PLOKKER,
ONSLAUGHT!

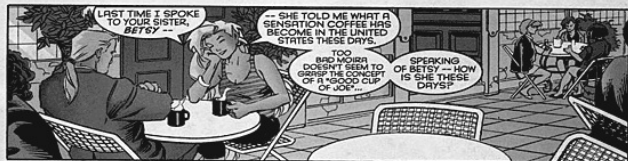
BRIAN --
DON'T! HE'S
ONLY A
BOY!

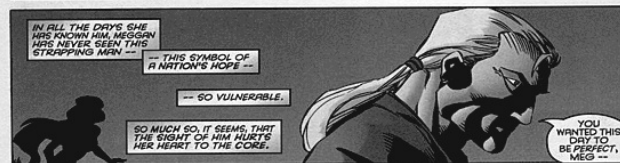
YA
ASK ME, THE
GOV'MENT OUKTA
GAS THE LOZZA
YA FREAKS!

PHONE

LET'S
NOT LET ANYONE
RUIN OUR DAY.
PLEASEF FOR
ME?

FINE.







-- AND
IT LOOKS LIKE I'VE
GONE AND MADE A
COMPLETE MESS
OF IT.

SEEMS
TO BE PAID
FOR THE COURSE
FOR OL' CAPTAIN
BRITAIN THESE
DAYS...

OH,
DON'T BE
SUCH A SILLY,
DR. BRIAN
BRADDOCK.

YOU COULD
NEVER RUIN
MY DAY.

JUST
BEING WITH YOU
EACH AND EVERY
MOMENT MAKES MY
DAY -- AND MY WEEK,
AND MY MONTH, AND
MY YEAR FOR THAT
MATTER!

I
JUST HATE
SEEING YOU
LIKE THIS.

I KNOW, MEG --
AND THAT'S WHY
I LOVE YOU
SO.

AND
I LOVE
YOU, TOO,
BRIAN.
ETERNALLY.

BACK IN THE
MUIR ISLAND
LABORATORY
WING...

Dr. MacTAGGERT -
YOU'VE BEEN DOWN
HERE FOR DAYS!

DON'T YOU
THINK IT'S
TIME YOU
RESTED?

NRE,
DOUGLOCK --
NOT NOW. THERE'S
TOO MUCH WORK
THAT NEEDS
DOIN'!

THEN LET ME
ATTEND TO IT --
YOUR ORGANIC
BODY REQUIRES
SLEEP --
-- MY TECHNO-
ORGANIC BODY
DOESN'T.

ATTENTION,
DR. MOIRA
MCTAGGERT --

Och,
I WISH I
COULD --

-- BUT
EVER SINCE
DISCOVERING THAT
GENETIC SIMILARITY
BETWEEN CABLE
AND WEE NATE
GREY --

-- I
HAVE NRE BEEN
ABLE TO LET GO OF
THE IDEA THAT WHAT'S
GOIN' ON HERE... IS
MORE THAN JUST A
COINCIDENCE...

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MUTATING MATT

-- YOU'VE
GOT
MAIL!

I WONDER --
COULD IT BE FROM
CHARLES...?

POOR Dr.
MacTAGGERT.

SHE CONTINUES TO
"GLITCH" BECAUSE
OF THE SEVERED
CONNECTION TO
HER FORMER LOVE...

WELL, WOULDN'T YE KNOW IT -- IT'S FROM ALAISTAIRE STUART!

CONTACTING NORA ON
HER STUNNER ALAISTAIRE
RE: LEG-REPAIRING

"THANKS SO MUCH FOR THE FINE HOSPITALITY -- LOOKIN' FORWARD TO POPPIN' BY FOR A VISIT SOMEDAY -- BUT FOR NOW IT'S OFF TO JAPAN TO GET RORY FITTED FOR A PROSTHESIS. AND CONSIDERING HOW CROTCHEITY HE'S BEEN EVER SINCE THE ACCIDENT -- THIS COMES NONE TOO SOON! REGARDS TO THE GANG! ALWAYS, ALAISTAIRE."

SUCH A NICE LRD, THAT ONE.

I WONDER HOW DR. CAMPBELL IS HOLDING UP.

THE LOSS OF HIS LEGS REALLY HIT HIM HARD.

SUCH A MALFUNCTION IS BOUND TO HAVE SERIOUSLY TRAUMATIC EFFECTS ON AN INDIVIDUAL.

ANYWAY -- THERE IS SOMETHING ABOUT THESE HELIXES I DO NOT UNDERSTAND...

IF THESE TWO SAMPLES ARE EXACTLY THE SAME, WHAT NEW DATA DO YOU POSSIBLY HOPE TO GLEAN?

● RORY LOST HIS LEG IN EXCALIBUR 90 -- MAY

YOUR OBSSIVE BEHAVIOR IS MERELY GOING TO EXACERBATE --

I HAVE TRE DO THIS, DOUGIE. THERE'S NAE TWO WAYS ABOUT IT.

THE CURE FOR THE LEGACY VIRUS MAY BE LOCKED AWAY SOMEWHERE INSIDE THESE GENETIC CODES.

NOW I MAY END UP KILLIN' MUHSELF HUNTIN' THE KEY TRE THAT LOCK...

... BUT IF THAT'S THE PRICE TO PAY SO NO ONE ELSE NEED EVER FEAR THIS BLOODY PARASITE AGAIN --

-- WHETHER HUMAN OR MUTANT --

-- THEN SO BE IT!



LONDON, THE
"DIAMOND
DISTRICT".

OH,
BRIAN --
IT... IS...
SOOOO

-- GOORGEUS!

CASH OR
CHARGE?

I... I... I...

I... I
DON'T KNOW
WHAT TO
SAY.

THEN
DON'T SAY
ANYTHING.

JUST
LISTEN TO
ME AND KNOW
THAT FROM THIS
MOMENT ON, YOU
AND I SHALL
BE TOGETHER
FOREVER.

THAT IS,
IF YOU WILL
HAVE ME FOR
YOUR LOVING
HUSBAND...!

I... I... I...

OH, BRIAN --
I -- *Awk!*

SOMETHING'S
WRONG...

I CAN FEEL AN
ENORMOUS WAVE
OF OTHERWORLDLY
ENERGY BUILDING
UP OUTSIDE THE
SHOP!

NOTHING
CAN CONTAIN
IT! IT'S GOING
TO --



AIEEE!

KRASH

MEGGAN!

OH! WATCH IT!

BACK OFF, MAN -- SHE NEEDS AIR!
IT'S OKAY, MEG -- EVERYTHING'S GOING TO BE OKAY!

SKREECH

WHY? WHY IS THIS HAPPENING? OF ALL TIMES --

-- WHY NOW?

SHE IS THE LEAST OF YOUR CONCERNS RIGHT NOW, BRADDOCK...

YOU!



TELL
ME NOW,
YOU TIME-
DANCING
WITCH
-- OR I
SWEAR UPON
MY FATHER'S
SOUL --

-- YOU'LL
WISH YOU
NEVER DANCED
YOUR WAY BACK
INTO THIS
WORLD!

SPIRAL!

WHAT HAVE
YOU DONE TO
MEGGAN?

HOLD,
BRITAIN --!

RESPONSIBLE
FOR YOUR --
GAAH! -- LADY
LOVE I AM
NOT!





"... ARE YOUR
EXECUTIONERS!"

OUR
SLEEP OF AGES
IS AT LAST
OVER!

AND
NOW THAT WE
ARE FREE OF OUR
OTHERWORLDLY
PRISON...

THIS
MORTAL COIL
IS ONCE MORE
OURS FOR THE
TAKING --

-- FOR THE
DRAGONS OF
THE CRIMSON
DAWN HAVE
RETURNED!

Next:
THE BATTLE
FOR THE LIFE
OF
**Captain
BRITAIN**
BEGINS!



WORDSTROKES

ILLUSTRATION BY JEFFREY L. BROWN

Hill After all the build-up, it's nice to finally have our new creative team aboard and up-and-running, allowing me to enter my normal, fairly feckless state. Ahhhhh. Anyway, there's no better way to make a new team feel more welcome than by sending in mail, both good and bad. On a side note, I've made a point before of saying that the letters page should be more than a rah-rah column. The letters that follow are an example of the criticism and concerns we want to address each and every month. To further facilitate the reception of your comments both good and bad, we've concocted an easy new way to do it! If you have a modem, just e-mail us your letters for Wordstrokes to MARVEL-MAIL@AOL.COM and be sure to do the following: mark your letters to the attention of Wordstrokes and label your letter "Okay To Print." If it ain't marked, we can't print it! So be the envy of the rest of the kids on your block and e-mail us today!

--Matt

Dear Wordstrokes,

I'm thoroughly sick of all the boring "we love Kitty" or "we love Wisdom" letters that you seem to fill Wordstrokes with each month. Well, here's what I think: Rahne Sinclair is one of the best characters ever to appear in a comic. Alright, her shape-shifting ability is nothing new, but in terms of pure character I think she's excellent. She was easily the most three-dimensional and likable New Mutant. I know she could be neurotic and immature and downright idiotic, but that only made her more entertaining. As opposed to all the tedious "bad-girl" super heroes being flung about these days, Wolfsbane is a "good-girl" super hero, and all the more likable for it. Her reactions in issue #91 were exactly in character, but since then she's been quite boring;

please don't take all the life out of this great character leaving her as just "the token animal mutate" or "Douglock's girlfriend". Give back some of the old hot-headedness and emotion.

Also, why do the artists have a tendency to draw Rahne looking like Feral, with big sideburns and fangs. Wasn't she cured of being stuck in transitional/Genoshan mutate form by Haven (I think it was in X-FACTOR #99)? So why don't you draw her in red-haired human form occasionally?

I like Captain Britain and Colossus, too, so more of them and less Pryde and Wisdom, please.

Till the Rahne in Sphane falls mahnely on the plahne, make mine Marvel.

Paul Darby

(Address withheld by request)

Less Kitty and Pete, eh, Paul? Okay! It's true the spotlight has kind of centered on P&W as of late, and consequently, so has the mail--but all that's about to change! For the immediate future, at least, the focus will be shifting to Colossus, Captain Britain, and Meggan, though we'll definitely be giving everyone something to do each month. That's not to say that Kitty or Pete will be relegated to the background, however... just wait until you see where Kitty takes Rahne next month! And speaking of Rahne, she'll be more than a wolf and definitely not Douglock's girlfriend.

Dear Wordstrokes,

Well, I've let it go as long as I could. I'm surprised that these mistakes weren't caught by other readers, at least those that got a letter printed. At first, I had decided to let these mistakes just slide. After all, it's not something that I figured would be so integral to any other stories. Boy, was I wrong!

Since it was first reintroduced in "The Soul Sword Trilogy", the Soul Sword has played a big part in yet another arc and a bit part in a one-issue story. And every time it's been mentioned those mistakes haven't been corrected. So let's see you get out of this mess:

1) In "The Soul Sword Trilogy" Amanda Sefton states that the Soul Sword wasn't a part of Ilyana. Wrong! As seen in the

MAGIK limited series, the Soul Sword was created from a part of Ilyana, from a part of her soul, hence the name.

2) It is doubtful that even a sorceress as powerful as Margali would be able to use the Soul Sword to its full potential. It was meant to be used by its creator, Ilyana. The only other person who should be able to wield anywhere close to its full power is Kitty.

3) The sorceress in "The Soul Sword Trilogy" (I forget her name) should not have been affected by the presence of the Soul Sword. After all, Ilyana wasn't affected by the presence of Storm's tree in MAGIK, which was also created in the same fashion.

Normally a letter such as this would end up with an attempt on the writer's part to explain this in hopes of getting a no-prize. I'm not going to try and explain these mistakes because I can't. What I really want is for someone there to explain it. I could try to make something up, such as a crisis that changed history, or a time yet again when history was changed because the hour reached zero, but I just can't do it, it's just too out of this world. So, let's see what you guys can come up with.

Derrick Fannin
Van Lear, KY

Good job on the research, Derrick! Since, as you stated, it's up to us to clean up this mess, clean it up we will!

1) Amanda was most definitely mistaken. In fact, both she and some of Excalibur are going to pay dearly for her naivete in such matters before long.

2) Right again, Derrick, assuming that Margali did know what she was doing. Unlike Amanda, Margali is paying dearly for her actions.

3) Actually, one really doesn't have anything to do with the other. The Soul Sword is a pretty unique item, in any dimension!

Dear Wordstrokes,

I am writing this in response to a letter printed in the Wordstrokes section of issue #103 by a Mr. Andrew Goh. I just wanted to say "thank you". It is good to see that someone else shares my sentiments in regard to Colossus' character, "Stoic Stalwart." That was great! What better way to describe him?

I, too, had stopped collecting comics for several years until I saw Colossus on the cover of UNCANNY X-MEN #325, and soon after reading that he would be joining Excalibur. I was so glad to see he was coming back to one of the

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X-books. EXCALIBUR is without a doubt my favorite X-title, and now you know why! I've been collecting faithfully ever since EXCALIBUR #91.

I am jumping in anticipation of issues #106-107. I can't wait! It is very encouraging to hear that the spotlight will start focusing on Colossus with those upcoming issues, especially since he has been used mostly as a background character recently. Like Mr. Goh, I sincerely hope that his power will not be undermined! I mean we're talking about the same guy who went toe-to-toe and punch-for-punch with Gladiator of the Shi'ar Empire way back in The Dark Phoenix saga.

Next subject: I would just like to say thank you to Carlos Pacheco. I am very sad to hear he is leaving EXCALIBUR. I absolutely loved his work in EXCALIBUR as well as the two issues of FANTASTIC FOUR during Onslaught. I especially loved his renditions of Nightcrawler, Colossus, and most of all, the Sub-Mariner. Although I wish he could have stayed with EXCALIBUR longer, I'll definitely be looking for his work in X-MEN. Nevertheless, I'm still anxious to welcome aboard the new creative team. Keep up the outstanding work!

Well, until Pete Wisdom starts wearing a spandex costume, make mine Marvel.

Jesse C. Hurter
Yigo, Guam

Look for more and more, and still more Colossus as this year progresses. Jesse! He'll be figuring big in a couple of major storylines this year, and having quite the impact on the home front to boot! Like we said in our response to Paul Darby's letter

earlier this page, everyone on the team is going to be given a lot to do, besides just Colossus. Some characters will get through 1997 having done more than others, but no one will be dead weight.

Dear Swordstrokes:

First of all, let me congratulate you on the overall quality of your comic. EXCALIBUR has gone from being a comic I wouldn't touch with a five-foot broadsword to being my very favorite must-have X-book. The rest of this letter, unfortunately, is a complaint. I could not believe the way Kitty was behaving in issue #104. Perhaps Pete's way of forcing her to face her so-called obsession with Douglock left something to be desired in the sensitivity department, but the way that Kitty spoke to him was just cruel. She acted like he was her enemy rather than the man she loves. And she does love him, people! Would you have us believe that one issue after they finally admit their love for each other, after everything they went through in the most excellent PRYDE & WISDOM limited series, Kitty would be so shallow as to turn her back on Pete and start mooning over that tin-plated dishrag, Colossus again? I hope that somebody doesn't use Warren Ellis' departure as an excuse to bust up Wisdom and Shadowcat. Pete Wisdom is the best character to be created by Marvel since Gambit, and he and Kitty belong together. This is obvious, at least to me, because they are so much better together than they are apart--and with characters like the two of them, that is saying quite a lot.

On a final note, I always thought that Kitty believed right from the start (certainly

from issue #81) that Douglock was not Doug Ramsey brought back to life. Now we find out that she so strongly believes that he is Doug Ramsey that she has a fight with her boyfriend over it, travels all the way back to America, visits the graveyard in the dead of night, and phases down through the earth to examine his coffin? Where did this come from? I apologize for the length of this letter and the degree of invecitive contained within it, but I had a lot to say. Well, anyway, until Colossus gets a backbone, make mine Marvel!

Elizabeth Holland
Altamonte Springs, FL

Thanks for your honesty and concern, Elizabeth. We'll always be receptive to that! No need to worry about the strength or sanctity of Kitty and Pete's relationship--they're not going to break up, nosireebub! As for Kitty's feelings about Douglock, you be the judge. The way we saw it, there was a lingering level of doubt on Kitty's part, and this storyline brought those hidden feelings to the surface (thanks in no small part to the efforts of Pete Wisdom. He knew what had to be done, and accepted that hurting Kitty and himself in the short run would benefit her in the long run.). After issue #105, we hope that both Kitty and all of you readers accept that Douglock is definitely not Doug Ramsey. Ultimately, his true nature is a story for the future.



NEXT MONTH

MAN, BRIAN AND
MEGAN ARE IN
IT DEEP THIS
TIME! BUMMER!

PLUS:
COLOSSUS
VERSUS
NIGHTCRAWLER--
WELL, SORT OF!

KITTY AND
RAHNE--
CHANGED
FOREVER!

AMANDA TAKES
A POWDER--
FOR GOOD!

AND YOU MUST
NOT MISS THE
SHOCKER OF
SHOCKERS AS
KITTY OPENS
WISDOM'S
CLOSET, ONLY TO
FIND...